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NAVY & AIR FORCE DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D.C.

With the Medical Officer of Health at Oswego, N.Y.

HIGH STREET,  
WATERLOO, N.Y.

14th March, 1941.

To the NEWBORN PORT HEALTH AND CRUISE COMMISSION,  
acting as the Port Health Authority.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 11th March, 1941, in accordance with the Regulations of the Ministry of Health which prescribe the duties of the Medical Officer of Health, and their Circular No. 1237 dated 11th January, 1940.  
FOR THE YEAR 1941

Constitution of Port Health Authority:-

BY

The Port Health Authority is the Mayor, Aldermen and Burgesses of the Borough of Newport, acting by the Council, The Hon. Mr. D. J. C. A. E. C. O. R. O. E. A. L. T. H. Mayor and St. Helens Rural District in addition to the Newport County Council.

H. CATTO, M.B., B.S., D.P.H.

Expenses Districts included (wholly or in part) in the Port Health District are:-

County Borough of Newport.  
Mayor and St. Helens Rural District: Parish -  
Wick, Gildcliffe, St. Andrew, St. Bridget and Peterborough.  
City and County Borough of Cardiff: Parish -

The contribution of these Authorities towards expenditure are in proportion to the rateable value of the Districts. The current forecast is as follows:- County Borough of Newport 95.23 per cent; the Rural District Council of Mayor and St. Helens, 1.74 per cent; City and County Borough of Cardiff, 4.03 per cent.

Vessels Inspected during the year.

TABLE A.

Number Inspected.	
By the Medical Officer of Health...	...
By the Sanitary Inspector...	...
Number reported to be defective...	...
Number of Vessels in which defects were remedied...	...
Number of Vessels reported as having no defects...	...
During the year the following vessels were inspected...	





# NEWPORT PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY.

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HEALTH DEPARTMENT,  
ROYAL CHAMBERS,  
HIGH STREET,  
NEWPORT, Mon.

14th March, 1942.

To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee  
acting as the Port Health Authority.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Report for the year 1941. It is made in accordance with the Regulations of the Ministry of Health which prescribe the duties of the Medical Officer of Health, and their Circular No. 1937 dated 11th January, 1940.

## Constitution of Port Health Authority:-

"The Port Health Authority is the Mayor, Aldermen and Burgesses of the Borough of Newport, acting by the Council. It discharges Port functions in waters abutting upon the Magor and St. Mellons Rural District in addition to the Newport County Borough."

Riparian Districts included (wholly or in part) in the Port Health District are:-

County Borough of Newport.

Magor and St. Mellons Council District: Parishes -

Nash, Goldcliff, Redwick, St. Brides and Peterstone.

City and County Borough of Cardiff: Parish - Rumney.

The contributions of these Authorities towards expenditure are in proportion to the Rateable Value of the Districts. The current Precept is as follows:- County Borough of Newport, 95.23 per cent; the Rural District Council of Magor and St. Mellons, .74 per cent; City and County Borough of Cardiff, 4.03 per cent.

Vessels Inspected during the year.

TABLE A.

### Number Inspected.

By the Medical Officer of Health...	...	...	1
By the Sanitary Inspector ...	...	...	1941
Number reported to be Defective	...	...	201
Number of Vessels on which defects were remedied.			189
Number of Vessels reported as having, or having had during the voyage infectious diseases on board.			78







## Source of Water Supply.

The drinking water of the Port is obtained from the Reservoirs of the Corporation of Newport. The water supply is shipped direct from the town mains. There are no water boats.

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND PORT SANITARY REGULATIONS, 1933.

Information in reference to cases of Infectious Diseases on inward vessels and vessels requiring special attention is supplied by Pilots by arrangement with the Pilotage Board, Shipping Agents and H.M. Customs. The Preventive Officers on duty at the Alexandra Docks Entrance report any such information to the Port Sanitary Inspector or by telephone to the office during office hours and to the Medical Officer of Health at his private residence at all other times day and night.

Only one vessel arrived from a Port infected, or suspected to be infected (Smallpox) during the year. No case of suspicious illness occurred during the voyage or after the vessel's arrival in Port.

One hundred and forty-seven cases of infectious sickness, etc., occurred on vessels during their voyages to Newport or after arrival here, namely:- Malaria 25, Influenza 8, Venereal Diseases 88, Measles 1, Scabies 24, and Cerebro-Spinal-Fever 1. (See Tables "C" and "D").

Ordinary cases of Infectious Diseases were accommodated at the Borough Isolation Hospital and conveyed in the Borough Ambulances, by arrangement between the two Authorities. There were no cases of Plague, Cholera, Yellow Fever, Typhus Fever, or Smallpox.

The disinfection of quarters is carried out under the supervision of the Port Sanitary Inspectors and infected bedding, clothing, etc., is either disinfected at the Borough Disinfection Station or burnt.

### Venereal Diseases.

Dr. Ingram, the Medical Officer in charge of the Venereal Diseases Clinic at the Royal Gwent Hospital, has supplied me with the following particulars re treatment of Seamen, who visited the Port during the year:-

	British Subjects				Foreigners		Total	
	1941			Av.	1941	Av.	1941.	Av.
	White	Colour	Total	Prev. 5 yrs.	Prev. 5 yrs.	Prev. 5 yrs.		
No. of patients examined	79	19	98	82.0	205	71.6	303	153.6
Found to be suffering from:								
Syphilis..	17	5	22	23.2	87	22.6	109	45.8
Gonorrhoea	50	9	59	46.0	90	31.8	149	77.8
Soft Chancre	2	1	3	3.6	13	6.8	16	10.4
Found not to be suffering from Venereal Disease	10	4	14	9.2	15	10.4	29	19.6
Total Atten-	343	100	443	359.4	538	200.6	975	559.2







There was a large increase in the total number of seamen examined during the year: the figure - 303 - was higher by 117 than in 1940, and was 149.4 above the average of 153.6 for the previous five years. The increase was solely among coloured British Subjects and Foreign Seamen. Among the white British Seamen there was an actual decrease of 7. The number of coloured British Subjects examined showed an increase of 6, and foreign seamen increased by no less than 118.

The nationalities of the foreign seamen examined, with the numbers found to be suffering from Venereal Disease in brackets, were:- Belgians 8 (8); Chinese 14 (9); Danish 21 (21); Dutch 59 (53); Estonians 3 (3); Finnish 3 (3); Greek 24 (23); Lithuanian 1 (1); Norwegian 51 (49); Polish 2 (2); Russian 1 (1); Spanish 3 (3); Swedish 13 (12); "South American" 1 (1); Yugo Slav 1 (1).

14.3 per cent of the British Seamen (White & Coloured) and 7.3 per cent of the Foreign Seamen examined were found not to be suffering from Venereal Disease, compared with 15.1 per cent and 17.2 per cent respectively during 1940, and with 11.2 and 14.5 per cent respectively during the previous five years.

The book (V.44.) issued by the Ministry of Health is supplied to each seaman patient to ensure continuity of treatment at other Ports.

As was to be expected with such a large increase in the number of patients dealt with, the total attendances were higher than usual. They numbered 975 compared with 657 in 1940, 423 in 1939, 539 in 1938, 647 in 1937, and with 559 the annual average for the five years 1936 - 1940. The average number of attendances per patient was 3.3, only slightly less than the average for the previous five years of 3.6. The British Subjects with 4.5 attendances per patient did better than the Foreign seamen whose average per patient was only 2.6. The chief reason for the few attendances per patient is of course that vessels usually remain in dock only for a short time - and this period of stay is less now than formerly, owing to war conditions.

Propaganda. In an endeavour to prevent further increase in the incidence of Venereal Disease which has occurred among seamen since the outbreak of war, the Local Venereal Diseases Committee in conjunction with the Health Committee issued during the year 1940 a Port Health Brochure or Seafarers Guide for distribution to all seamen arriving at the Port. The immediate purpose of the booklet is to warn seamen of the risk of contracting Venereal Disease through promiscuous intercourse and to give particulars of the local treatment centre and of social centres and places of entertainment available to them in the town. Its distribution has been continued throughout the year 1941.

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The bacteriological examinations of rats in connection with Plague precautions, as well as other bacteriological examinations such as Swabs for K.L.B., Bloods for Widal Reaction, etc. have been carried out at the Bacteriological Laboratory attached to the Health Department, pending the putting into operation of new arrangements which at present are being considered by the Council.



There was a large increase in the total number of  
seamen examined during the year. The figure was  
higher by 117 than in 1940, and was 123.1 above the average  
of 123.6 for the previous five years. The increase was  
chiefly among coloured British seamen and foreign seamen.  
Among the white British seamen there was an actual decrease  
of 7. The number of coloured British seamen examined  
showed an increase of 6, and foreign seamen examined by 20  
less than 118.

The nationalities of the British seamen examined, with  
the numbers found to be suffering from venereal disease in  
1941, were: British 6 (6); Chinese 1 (1); Danish 21  
(21); Dutch 25 (25); Estonian 2 (2); Finnish 1 (1); French  
24 (24); German 1 (1); Norwegian 1 (1); Polish 2 (2);  
Russian 1 (1); Swedish 2 (2); Total 123 (123).

14.2 per cent of the British seamen (white & coloured)  
and 7.5 per cent of the foreign seamen examined were found  
not to be suffering from venereal disease, compared with  
12.1 per cent and 17.5 per cent respectively during 1940, and  
with 11.2 and 16.5 per cent respectively during the previous  
five years.

The peak (4.4) reached by the Ministry of Health in  
supplying to venereal patients in various conditions of treat-  
ment at other ports.

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As was to be expected, the number of  
higher than in 1940, 44.2 in 1941, the  
annual average number of examinations  
number of examinations for the year was  
than the average number of examinations  
British seamen examined during the year  
that the foreign seamen examined during  
The chief reason for the increase was the  
country that was in the highest state of  
time - and this led to a large increase  
to war conditions.

Proposed. It is suggested to provide further information in  
the Ministry of Health's annual report on venereal disease  
semen since the Ministry of Health has received information  
Domestic in connection with the Health Committee's report during  
the year 1941. A large number of reports of venereal disease  
distributed to all medical officers in the Army. The Ministry  
purpose of the report is to give a picture of the state of ven-  
ereal disease in the Army, and to give information on the progress  
to give patients of the Army treatment centres and of  
social centres and give a picture of the state of ven-  
in the Army. It is suggested that the report should be continued throughout  
the year 1942.

The bacteriological examinations of tests in connection  
with venereal disease, as well as other bacteriological  
examinations such as those for K.L.S., should be with the  
notion, also have been carried out at the bacteriological  
laboratory attached to the Health Department, during the  
putting into operation of the arrangements which at present  
are being considered by the Council.



TABLE C.

Cases of Infectious Sickness landed from Vessels.

Disease	Number during 1941 of		
	Passengers.	Crew.	Vessels concerned
Influenza.	-	8	6
Measles.	-	1	1
Scabies.	-	24	15
Cerebro-Spinal-Fever.	-	1	1
Venereal Diseases.	-	72	44
TOTAL	-	106	67

TABLE D.

Cases of Infectious Sickness occurring on vessels during the voyage but disposed of prior to arrival.

Disease	No. of cases during 1941.		No. of Vessels concerned.
	Passengers	Crew	
Malaria	-	25	1
Venereal Diseases	-	16	10
TOTAL	-	41	11

MEASURES AGAINST RODENTS.

Special attention is paid to the work of detection of rodents on vessels, quays, wharves, warehouses, etc., in the Port and Borough. An experienced rat catcher is specially employed for this work.

Deratisation of vessels under the International Regulations for the prevention of plague, etc., is carried out by private firms under the supervision of the Port Sanitary Inspectors. The chemicals used are Sulphur and Hydrocyanic Acid. The rat population around the docks has been materially reduced of recent years by special attention to warehouses and other places of harbourage, such as river banks, tips, etc. 309 rats were destroyed on these premises in 1941 compared with 322 in 1940. On board ship 783 rats were destroyed as against 1106 in 1940.

Rats destroyed during 1941.

TABLE E. On vessels.

No. destroyed.	No. examined.	No. found to be infected with Plague.
783 & 25 mice	30	Nil.

In Docks, Quays, Wharves and Warehouses. TABLE F.

No. destroyed.	No. examined.	No. found to be infected with Plague.
309	Nil	Nil







TABLE G.

Measures of Rat Destruction on Plague "infected" or "suspected" Vessel or Vessels from plague infected ports arriving in the Port during the year.

No such Vessels arrived in Newport during 1941.

TABLE H.

Deratisation Certificates and Deratisation Exemption Certificates issued during the year.

No. of Ships...	...	...	...	...	...	74
No. of Deratisation Certificates issued:						
After fumigation with	}	HCN...	...	...	11	
		Sulphur	...	...	14	
		HCN and Sulphur...			-	
After trapping, poisoning, etc..		...	...	...	5	
Total	...	...	...	...	...	30
No. of Deratisation Exemption Certificates issued						44
Total Certificates issued						74

#### Hygiene of Crew's Spaces.

TABLE J.

#### Classification of Nuisances.

	Number	Percentage of Total.
No. of Vessels inspected during 1941 ... ..	1941	-
Defects of original construction	10	2.69
Structural defects through wear and tear.. ...	92	24.73
Dirt, vermin and other conditions prejudicial to health.	270	72.58

#### General Inspection of Vessels.

10.4 per cent of the 1941 vessels (including British and Foreign) inspected during the year had sanitary defects according to the present standard laid down by the Board of Trade.

The types of nuisances and defects dealt with show that 72.6 per cent of the nuisances were due to lack of care and sanitary supervision of the living quarters, whilst 27.4 per







cent were due to defective structural conditions, including those caused through wear and tear. The great majority of both types of nuisances could have been avoided by stricter supervision of the crew and attention to minor structural defects.

With regard to individual nuisances discovered, dirty and verminous crew's quarters, berths, wash-places and mess-rooms accounted for 25.9 per cent., foul water closets for 2.4 per cent., and defective and dirty lockers 33.8 per cent.

Lack of attention to fittings and structures, including defective side scuttles, deck prisms, ventilators, side ports, cable castings and hawse pipes, insufficient heating apparatus or defective stoves, etc., were responsible for a large proportion of the other insanitary conditions.

Although many of the above insanitary conditions are no doubt due to carelessness on the part of the crew, the "ultimate responsibility," as stated by the special Committee appointed by shipowners to enquire into the subject, "rests upon the master, and the degree of cleanliness is a criterion of the discipline of the ship." ...

A supply of the pamphlet "Prevention of Infestation of Ships by the Bed-Bug" compiled by the Association of Port Health Authorities has been obtained and copies are distributed to Masters of Vessels where necessary.

I wish to thank the Collector of H.M. Customs and his "Preventive" Officers and the Clerk of the Pilotage Board for affording prompt and valuable assistance at all times in carrying out preventive work in connection with Infectious Diseases.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

H. CATTO

Medical Officer of Health.

#### INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee acting as the Port Health Authority.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen, ..

I beg to submit my Annual Report for the year 1941.

#### SHIP INSPECTION.

During the year, 1941 vessels were inspected and 201 (10.4 per cent) of them were found to have nuisances or defects on board. It was not necessary to serve any statutory notices with regard to these vessels. 266 verbal and informal notices were given, as a result of which most of the nuisances and defects were remedied and 65 quayside nuisances abated. 2,702 re-visits were made to vessels in connection with sickness, nuisances and defects, rat destruction and to vessels from infected areas.





## Nuisances and Defects.

Dirt, vermin and other conditions prejudicial to health accounted for 270 (72.6 per cent), structural defects caused through wear and tear for 92 (24.7 per cent) and defects of original construction 10 (2.7 per cent) of the total found. The numbers and types of nuisances and defects dealt with on all vessels together with percentages, are shown in Table J of the Medical Officer of Health's Report. Table 1 indicates the various nuisances dealt with and of these 9.1 per cent were due to the verminous condition of quarters and berths, 33.8 per cent to dirty and defective lockers, 13.2 per cent to dirty quarters, 3.9 per cent to defective ports, and 4.3 per cent to foul and defective water closets and fittings.

### Dirt, Vermin and other conditions prejudicial to health.

The number of crews' quarters and berths found in a dirty condition during the year was practically the same as that of the previous year.

It is evident that greater care is now being exercised by Masters of vessels, in the control of vermin; both the number of vessels and the number of quarters dealt with during the year being considerably less than those for the previous year. When the infestation was of a slight nature, disinfection was carried out by spraying a recognised insecticide into all crevices of woodwork and bunks, whilst in cases of heavy infestation the quarters were fumigated by means of burning sulphur or hydrogen cyanide, the metal bunks dismantled and the blow lamp used.

Most of the foul water closets which came under observation during the year were of the enamelled iron type. This type of pan soon becomes coated with foul matter under ordinary conditions of usage, and when the water service is intermittent (deck service,) the fouling is accelerated.

### Structural Defects caused through Wear and Tear.

Defective port frames, linings and broken glasses, defective stoves and fittings, bunks, water closets and lockers were responsible for the greater number of this type of defect and many of these conditions were caused by misuse and lack of attention. Other defects dealt with were defective ventilators and shutters, hawse pipes, floors, leaky decks and broken entrance doors.

TABLE 1.

#### Nuisances and Defects dealt with.

Defective bunks and fittings ...	...	...	...	15
" heating apparatus ...	...	...	...	23
" side ports & deck prisms ...	...	...	...	69
" ventilators & fittings ...	...	...	...	6
" waterclosets & fittings ...	...	...	...	34
" hawse pipes, etc. ...	...	...	...	5
" or dirty food lockers. ...	...	...	...	595
" floors and leaky decks ...	...	...	...	26
" doors ...	...	...	...	3
" drainage ...	...	...	...	15
" hand pump ...	...	...	...	3
" skylight ...	...	...	...	1
" tank air pipe in crews' quarters..	...	...	...	1
" wash basins ...	...	...	...	4
Dirty crew quarters and berths..	...	...	...	233
" messrooms..	...	...	...	55
" washplaces. ...	...	...	...	8
" decks ...	...	...	...	3
" and/or verminous beds ...	...	...	...	442
" ice chests. ...	...	...	...	2





TABLE 1 (cont.)

Verminous crew quarters and berths ... ..	161
Foul water closets... ..	42
Accumulation of refuse... ..	15
Quayside nuisances... ..	65
Lack of heating apparatus ... ..	1
Insufficient ventilation ... ..	10
Wooden bulkheads between berths and water closets	2
Wooden chain pipes in crews' quarters... ..	3

### Rat Destruction.

The warehouses, sheds, quays, hoists, sidings, river banks, wharves and private premises within the district were periodically inspected and 10,100 poison baits laid down. 309 rats were found dead after poisoning and of these 193 were picked up on the wharves and banks of the River Usk and 116 on the banks of the River Ebbw. Immediate measures are taken when fresh evidence of rats is seen or their presence reported.

The number of rats destroyed on board vessels during the year was 783. 14 vessels were fumigated by means of burning sulphur and on five of these ships trapping was also employed, 74 rats being killed by traps and 408 by burning sulphur. 11 vessels were fumigated with hydrogen cyanide and on three of these ships trapping was also employed; 52 rats being killed by traps and 225 by hydrogen cyanide. On 5 vessels measures of trapping only were utilized, resulting in the destruction of 24 rats.

Certificates issued:- Deratisation, 30; Exemption, 44.

With a few exceptions, all vessels from foreign ports are examined for evidence of rats and when recent indications are found, precautions are taken to prevent the rats making their way to the shore.

### The Parrots (Prohibition of Import) Regulations, 1930.

Thirteen budgerigars and one parakeet came under observation during the year. Notices were served prohibiting their import and in each case a written undertaking that the birds would not be landed was received from the owner. All the birds were in a healthy condition and were taken away on board the vessels when they left the port.

### Importation of Animals.

The various orders with reference to the importation of canine and other animals have been enforced during the year. 491 dogs and 481 cats were imported directly or indirectly. The vessels concerned were visited during their stay in port to ensure that the requirements of the Orders were observed.

THE PUBLIC HEALTH (IMPORTED) FOOD REGULATIONS, 1937.

THE PUBLIC HEALTH (IMPORTED MILK) REGULATIONS, 1926.

THE PUBLIC HEALTH (PRESERVATIVES, ETC. IN FOOD) REGULATIONS  
1925 - 1927.

In accordance with the powers contained in these Regulations relating to the inspection of Foods arriving from foreign and home ports, the provisions have been carried out in so far as they concern the Public Health (Imported Food) Regulations, 1937. With regard to the Public Health (Imported Milk) Regulations, 1926, and the Public Health (Preservatives, etc., in Food) Regulations, 1927, it has not been found necessary to take any action.







A quantity of Cereals, beans, salmon, fruit and vegetables was condemned as unfit for human consumption, part of it was utilised for the purpose of animal feeding stuffs and the remainder was destroyed.

THE PUBLIC HEALTH (SHELL FISH) REGULATIONS 1934.

There are no shell-fish beds or layings within the jurisdiction of the Authority.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

R. M. SCORRER,

Senior Port Sanitary Inspector.

